उत्तर प्रदेश तथा मध्य प्रदेश में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा सूची

914. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
कुमारी आलिवा :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश तथा मध्य प्रदेश में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा सूची में पंजीकृत व्यक्तियों की जिला-वार संख्या कितनी-कितनी है;

(ख) 1 जनवरी, 1991 से जिन व्यक्तियों को टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दिए गए हैं उनकी जिला-वार संख्या कितनी है ; और

(ग) प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज सभी व्यक्तियों को कब तक टेलीफोन दे दिये जाने की संभावना है ?

पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री और संचार मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री जय प्रकाश): (क) से (ग): जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Refuelling of Air India Plane at Sydney Airport

915. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers at Sydney Airport in Australia refused to refuel an Air India jet in January, 1991; and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether an Australian Air Force Plane was grounded in Bombay Airport for two days; and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). A Royal Australian Air Force Plane landed in Bombay on January 17, 1991. It was en route to Cyprus for prepositioning for the evacuation of civilians, if necessary, from the Gulf. Clearance had been given for the aircraft to overfly Indian air space and make a technical landing in Delhi subject to the condition that no aviation fuel could be provided. However, because of bad weather, the aircraft diverted to Bombay and sought refuelling. Taking into account its humanitarian mission, refuelling facility was extended. The Australian aircraft was delayed in Bombay because it had not yet received overflight clearance from the Government of Afghanistan.

Australian trade unions misinformed about the cause of delay of the RAAF plane in Bombay, had threatened to withhold refuelling facilities to a regular Air India flight to Sydney on 18-1-1991. However, at the intervention of the Australian Government, the aircraft was refuelled and left Sydney at its scheduled time of departure. We were informed that the trade union authorities had apologised after they were apprised of the reasons for delay of the RAAF aircraft.

Sethusamudram project

916. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu have demanded the execution of Sethusamudram project; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project has been examined. However, no decision has been possible as the 8th Five Year Plan has not been finalised so far.